

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - NGO TRIBUNE - "STATEMENT
FROM BUCHAREST"

REF: BUCHAREST 3966

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT PREPARED BY SEVERAL
GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING THE NGO TRIBUNE IN BUCHAREST
WHICH HAS BEEN SIGNED BY SOME 500 PEOPLE AS OF 30 AUGUST 1974.
THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT FORMALLY BLESSED BY THE TRIBUNE SINCE IT
HAD BEEN AGREED PRIOR TO THE CONVENING OF THE TRIBUNE THAT NO
FORMAL RESOLUTIONS OR STATEMENTS WOULD BE OFFICIALLY ISSUED.
BECAUSE OF THE PRESS INTEREST IN THIS STATEMENT ITS TEXT
IS REPRODUCED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE SIGNATORIES OF THIS DECLARATION, HAVING ATTENDED
THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE AND POPULATION TRIBUNE, AUGUST
1974 IN BUCHAREST, ROMANIA, BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES
SHOULD GUIDE THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO
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ACHIEVE A BENEFICIAL BALANCE BETWEEN THE WORLD'S POPULATION

AND THE RESOURCES OF THE EARTH.

1. THE WORLD SITUATION IS POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS. HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS ARE SUFFERING FROM HUNGER, POVERTY, PERSECUTION, DISEASE AND ILLITERACY. THE UNPRECEDENTED RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH, DOUBLING POPULATION FROM 3 TO 6 BILLION IN A GENERATION, WILL STRAIN THE ENVIRONMENT AND MAN'S SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS TO BREAKING POINT. ACTION TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE IS IMPERATIVE.

2. THE BASIS FOR TACKLING THESE PROBLEMS MUST BE IN TERMS OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVES, JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL. RADICAL CHANGES IN THE WORLD'S SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, LONG OVERDUE ON MORAL GROUNDS, HAVE NOW BECOME NECESSARY ON ECOLOGICAL GROUNDS.

3. IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCES, THE NEEDS OF ALL SOCIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS MUST BE CONSIDERED, AND WE REJECT AS DESTRUCTIVE ALL POLICIES THAT ARE PURELY NATIONALISTIC.

EACH NATION SHOULD TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEETING ITS PARTICULAR POPULATION PROBLEMS IN THE INTEREST OF THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ITS OWN PEOPLE, BUT HAVING REGARD TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

SOME COUNTRIES CONSUME AND WASTE THE EARTH'S RESOURCES AT A RATE THAT CANNOT BE MAINTAINED. OTHERS HAVE DENSELY SETTLED REGIONS WITH POPULATION GROWTH RATES OF 2 OR 3 PERCENT A YEAR THAT WILL EXERT DEMANDS ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH MAY NOT BE MET. THE URGENCY OF THE GLOBAL CRISIS MUST NOT BE IGNORED NOR SUBMERGED BENEATH NATIONAL AMBITIONS.

4. ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD PRACTICE RIGOROUS CONSERVATION MEASURES TO PREVENT POLLUTION AND WASTE OF BOTH NON-RENEWABLE AND RENEWABLE RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY FOOD. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THERE MUST BE A CURTAILMENT IN THE CONSUMPTION OF LUXURY AND EXPENDABLE ITEMS AND A GREATER EMPHASIS ON LIFE STYLES WHICH STRESS SOCIAL RATHER THAN MATERIAL VALUES.

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5. POPULATION POLICIES SHOULD AIM TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ALL PEOPLE. THESE POLICIES SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE FRAME WORK OF OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES DESIGNED TO ATTACK SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INJUSTICE BETWEEN AND WITHIN COUNTRIES AS THE WORLD MOVES TOWARD A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER. IN POPULATION POLICIES THE NEEDS OF ALL SOCIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS MUST BE CONSIDERED WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE RIGHT OF INDIGENOUS

AND MINORITY GROUPS TO TAKE PART IN SUCH POLICY FORMATION.

POPULATION PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED IN ISOLATION FROM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE RELIED UPON BY ITSELF TO PREVENT THOSE POPULATION PROBLEMS.

6. GOVERNMENTS MUST RESPECT THE BASIC RIGHTS OF ALL INDIVIDUALS TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND MEANS OF DETERMINING THE NUMBER AND SPACING OF THEIR CHILDREN. BY THE YEAR 1985, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE FREE INFORMATION AND SERVICES TO ENSURE THIS RIGHT AND ADEQUATE EDUCATION ON POPULATION DYNAMICS TO ALL.

7. WE CALL UPON THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, AND OTHER NATIONS THAT HAVE THE CAPACITY, TO WORK WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOWARDS TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE THAT ARE JUST AND REALISTIC, AND TO GIVE SUITABLE AID WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED. FOOD AND FERTILIZERS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS IN WORLD TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

8. THE SUCCESS OF POPULATION POLICIES DEPENDS ON THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN. WOMEN SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO OBTAIN FULL HUMAN DIGNITY NECESSARY FOR THEM TO EXERCISE RESPONSIBLE CHOICE AS PERSONS. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE PARTICULAR STEPS TO ACHIEVE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO EVERY STAGE OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE 2ND DEVELOPMENT DECADE. THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN AS MOTHERS AND PROVIDERS OF FOOD BOTH IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS SHOULD BE FULLY RECOGNIZED.

9. EVERY CHILD BORN SHOULD BE ASSURED THE CONDITIONS WITHIN WHICH ITS FULL POTENTIALITIES CAN BE REALIZED. TODAY MILLIONS OF CHILDREN SUFFER FROM MALNUTRITION, DEPRIVATION AND DISEASE. WITHOUT ASSURANCE THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL SURVIVE, PARENTS LACK

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THE FIRST CONDITION OF HOPE AND SECURITY TO FREELY PARTICIPATE IN FAMILY PLANNING. AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH RESOURCES MUST BE

DEVELOPED TO ASSURE ADEQUATE PRE- AND POST-NATAL HEALTH FOR ALL CHILDREN.

10. THE NON-PRODUCTIVE COMMITMENT OF WEALTH, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL TO LARGE MILITARY PROGRAMMES IS AN OFFENSE AGAINST HUMANITY AND AN OBSTINATE BARRIER TO MEETING THE HUMAN NEEDS SET FORTH IN THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION. WE CALL ON CITIZENS TO WORK IN THEIR

RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES FOR REALLOCATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE MEANS OF DESTRUCTION TO THE SUPPORT OF LIFE.

11. WE FEAR THAT THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION WILL REMAIN IMPOTENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES. LARGE-SCALE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGES WILL BE FORCED UPON HUMAN-KIND. RATHER THAN WAITING BLINDLY WE MUST PREPARE FOR THEM RESPONSIBLY.

WE URGE OUR FELLOW PARTICIPANTS AT THESE MEETINGS TO INSIST UPON REALISTIC DISCUSSION OF POPULATION PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL TERMS, AND TO REJECT, ACTIVELY OPPOSE AND GO BEYOND OFFICIAL DECLARATIONS ON POPULATION MATTERS WHOSE GENERALITY MAKES THEM VACUOUS.

12. WE ACCEPT PERSONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESS THESE VALUES AND DECISIONS ON GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES, (BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL), POLITICAL PARTIES, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, EDUCATIONALISTS AND OTHER CITIZENS.

WE APPEAL TO ALL NON-GOVEGOMENT ORGANIZATIONS TO URGE THEIR AFFILIATES TO WORK FOR THESE ENDS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES AND WITH THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS, IN WHATEVER WAYS ARE OPEN TO THEM AND JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY TO COOPERATE WITH THE UN FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES AND OTHER RELEVANT UN AGENCIES.

WE BELIEVE THAT STRIVING FOR THESE GOALS WILL ASSURE A BETTER
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LIFE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. END QUOTE
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